

A matter of perspective about House Bill 228 and citizen self defense

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE

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HB 228

Two analogies are offered about the police administrators' perception of HB 228, MSSA's self defense bill.

First, there is no doubt that police administrators and prosecutors see HB 228 from a unique perspective. **Everyone** sees the world from a unique perspective. Police administrators and prosecutors perceive the world from their unique point of view as full-time participants in the criminal justice system.

Especially about HB 228, police administrators and prosecutors appear to be thinking only about how the bill will affect their relatively small sphere of activity, but not about how it will affect everyone else. In Montana, only about 7/10ths of 1% of the population are actively involved in law enforcement (including game wardens and detention personnel; 2/10ths of 1% with only sworn MHP, sheriffs and police - mpera.mt.gov). Police administrators and prosecutors are a tiny part of that, a minuscule subset of Montana.

Here are the two analogies:

1: Suppose two people look at an empty tube from a roll of paper towels. However, one looks at it end-on, and another looks at it from the side. Each will see, perceive and describe a much different reality.

2: This may be a better analogy. Some people describe firearms as our "liberty teeth." Teeth and firearms are surprisingly analogous. They may each be used benignly, defensively or offensively.

I often compliment my Golden Retriever, Lea, on what pretty, large, sharp, white teeth she has. But, I am NEVER concerned that she will use her formidable teeth to rip out my throat in the night while I sleep. Never. When I think of canine teeth, I think of the picture on the left.



When police administrators think analogously of canine teeth, they may perceive the picture on the right.

This illustrates the difference between how most citizen gun owners see themselves and each other, and how Montana's tiny subset of police administrators and prosecutors may see citizen gun owners.

This matter of perception and perspective may explain some police administrators' and prosecutors' demonstrated fear of HB 228 and armed citizens.

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